

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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FLOOR DEBATE

January 22, 2001 LB 210
 LR 1

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Further debate on the LB 210? Senator Smith, you're recognized to close. Senator Smith waives closing. The question is, shall LB 210 be advanced to E & R Initial? Those in favor vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Mr. Clerk, please record.

CLERK: 42 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the advancement of LB 210.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: LB 210 is advanced. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, LR 1CA by Senator Stuhr. It would propose an amendment to Article I, Section 27 of the Constitution of the state of Nebraska. Resolution was introduced on January 4 of this year, referred to the Education Committee for public hearing, advanced to General File. I do have committee amendments, Mr. President. (AM0012, Legislative Journal page 343.)

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Stuhr, you're recognized to open on LR 1CA.

SENATOR STUHR: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. LR 1CA is a constitutional amendment to clarify the English language requirement in schools. It amends Article I, Section 27 of the Nebraska Constitution. And a little background: Senator Jerry Warner first served on the Constitutional Revision Commission and brought this issue to the Education Committee in 1997. The resolution was advanced to the floor and ran out of time before the Legislature could actually act on it. In 1999, I introduced LR 20CA, which was passed by the Legislature on a vote of 48 to 0, and appeared on the primary ballot in the year 2000. Unfortunately, I feel that the voters did not fully understand the issue and it was rejected by the electors at the May primary. The amendment, what it does is eliminate language requiring that private, denominational and parochial schools teach in English. Currently, the constitution states that all common school branches must be taught in English and, since we do not have a clear definition of what "common school branch" means, we are deleting that line and also the words "private, denominational and parochial" from the